

Wabash Reflections



E – news presented by the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission (WRHCC).

Spring has sprung and we're "Re-Starting" our metaphorical engines! When you're talking the Wabash River, I guess I prefer "Refresh" Indiana but maybe that sounds too cathode ray tubeish? Regardless, 'dive in' to this issue of Reflections for a glimpse of your Corridor:



- ❖ Knox County – The home of the original river walk expands its horizon!
- ❖ Cass County - Little Turtle Waterway Turns 20!
- ❖ Warren County – History of a Water Trail Access Point – Cicott Park!
- ❖ Notes and Quotes: Wabash!

Knox County: Wabash River Walk Trail ads to historic Vincennes

It's no secret that water attracts people and city officials in Vincennes plan on using our states greatest natural resource to draw people to Vincennes's historic downtown. The river walk project will include a walking, jogging and bicycling path that will parallel the Wabash River. This river walk trail will be about 1 mile long and connect Kimmel Park north of Vincennes University with the George Rogers Clark National Historical Park in downtown Vincennes. City Mayor Terry Mooney said, "The river walk is going to be amazing, people that walk around town and through the parks are really going to enjoy it". Mayor Mooney hopes the project will be completed in early 2007.



While you are considering a trip to visit one of the original river walks, consider July 8, 2006 when the Wabash River Water Trail grand opening will occur in Knox County (during Ouabachue Park's Women in the Outdoors event). Or, consider the "River Odyssey: Two Artists Follow the Wabash" artists' reception on July 15. The Wabash is truly a center of attention in Knox County this summer!

See more of what's up in Knox County at: <http://www.in.gov/mylocal/counties/knox/>

Cass County – Little Turtle Waterway Celebrates 20 Years

Fifty members and friends kicked off Little Turtle Waterway Corporation's 20th anniversary year at the annual dinner in Logansport on March 9.

During the social hour, guests reviewed plans for extending the trail, watched the WFYI documentary on the Wabash River, and looked at scrap books covering LTW's history and construction.

Ron James, Executive Director of the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission, complimented Cass County trail advocates on their vision in a short speech, and Mercedes Brugh outlined accomplishments and goals.

Accomplishments for 2005—

- Volunteer gardeners removed foreign invasive species and encouraged native plants; bringing the trail environment closer to how it appeared to George Winter when he arrived in Cass County in the early 1800's.
- With the help of local donations, volunteers were able to cap the old dump at the confluence of the Wabash and Eel Rivers, making it a lawn area.
- Volunteers assisted our consultant on an excellent application for a \$1 million grant for the connecting trail between LTW and River Bluff Trail.



Goals for 2006—

- Secure the brownfield land east of LTW to extend the trail to 18th Street.
- Continue to improve native habitat along the trail.
- Major Plaza maintenance, including grout in the limestone wall and concrete repairs.
- A statue for the pedestal in the Plaza.

Review our progress and join us at the river during “Taste of Logansport” on August 12, 2006 when we will celebrate the Grand Opening of the Wabash River Water Trail; on August 28 when we will mark the start of Logansport's hosting of the “River Odyssey” exhibition with an artists' reception; and on September 7, when our county hosts a viewing of “The Wabash” documentary.

Cass statistical info may be found at: <http://www.in.gov/mylocal/counties/cass/>

Warren County - History of a Wabash River Water Trail Access Point: Cicott Park, Independence, Indiana!

Zachariah Cicott, in the very early 1800s, became the first white man to settle permanently on the banks of the Wabash River near where the little town of Independence would arise, in the area that would become known as Warren County. His practice was to trade with the Kickapoo and Potawatomi Indians, a practice which, according to an 1883 History of Warren County, was

so profitable, “especially when he could get the Indians under the influence of whiskey, that he became a comparatively wealthy man.” Cicott Park, inclusive of the area of Mr. Cicott’s homestead, was named after this colorful, French-Canadian immigrant.

Presumably short and swarthy, a result of his French-Canadian background, and very muscular because of the constant paddling of his trading crafts, the pirogues, Zaccariah’s first trading post was most likely a rough dug out site. He stayed here until the War of 1812 then left as Indian attacks increased. He returned about 1820 and built a two story log home, impressive for those times. It is assumed that the logs ran vertically rather than horizontal because Cicott had logs for the house cut and numbered in Vincennes, where such construction was common, and shipped up the Wabash.

One story (told supposedly to David Moffit by Cicott, himself) relates a day, just before the war broke out, when Cicott found the Indians so savage and threatening that he did not unload his liquor from the pirogue, but moored close to the bank. There he dealt out the liquid for valuable furs. Finding that his liquor was sure to be consumed before all the furs had been secured, he instructed his companion to cautiously pour water into one end of the barrel while he dealt out the mixture from the other. In this shrewd way, he got all their furs and had considerable liquor left. But the Indians became clamorous and demanded more whisky. One savage looking fellow half-frenzied with intoxication, drew a huge knife and shouted that he must have more whisky or he would murder the trader. Cicott drew his knife and swore that the Indian could have no more unless he were a better man. Several hundred Indians were present, swarming like maddened bees on the bank, most very drunk. All were more or less infuriated at the loss of the furs and ready to wreak revenge on the trader who was being careful to keep his pirogue out of their reach. A fight seemed inevitable until the old chief came forward, bought the remainder of the whisky and, taking the barrel on his shoulders, carried it to the top of the hill, knocked in the head and told the Indians to help themselves. Cicott seized the opportunity and quietly pulled out into the middle of the river and began to row rapidly downstream as darkness approached. “History of Warren County” by Westen A Goodspeed.

Upon Cicott’s return after the war he lived on the same site with numerous animals, a large garden, surrounded by a fence that was probably high like that of a fort, his Potawatomi wife and family, until his death in 1850 at the age of 80. His grave is at the cemetery just outside



Independence, the village he platted in 1832. The house, vacant, was torn down in the 1890s.

In the spring of 1990, this property, plowed only once in the past century, and with no buildings, was offered for sale. A local historian began to seek funding to purchase and protect the site. At the same time, the 1990 Indiana General Assembly allocated the establishment of the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund. The rest, you could say, is history. Cicott Park is a treasure for Warren

County, not only because of its historical and archeological value, but because of its natural beauty and access to the Wabash River. In its most recent chapter, the Park's hand-carry access point was posted as an official portal of the Wabash River Water Trail in March of 2006.

A "Thumbnail" on Warren County is at: <http://www.in.gov/mylocal/counties/warren/>

Notes & Quotes (from Executive Director Ron James):

On The Move: If you haven't caught the "Wabash Odyssey" [at the Indiana State Museum, just west of the statehouse at 650 W. Washington Street in Indianapolis] by June 25th, don't panic. Though you may not see the entire 100 painting exhibit in one place ever again, the principal show is not over. The exhibit will now begin to move along the Corridor – next up:

The New Harmony Hoosier Salon Fine Arts Gallery

38 Selected Paintings from the Collection Includes 12 New Paintings of
Posey County, Indiana
507 Church Street
New Harmony, IN 47631
Tel 812-682-3970
www.hoosiersalon.org
July 14 – August 14, 2006
Artists' Reception Friday, July 14, 2006

Knox County Public Library

50 Selected Paintings from the Collection
502 N. 7th Street
Vincennes, IN 47591
Tel 812-886-4380
www.kcpl.lib.in.us
July 15 – August 14, 2006
Artists' Reception Saturday, July 15, 2006



This exhibition has been in the planning for over 7 years while artists David Dale, Muncie, and Jim Faulkner, Yorktown, sketched and photographed painting subjects along the entire course of the Wabash River. Starting with a plan for 25 works each, these artists studied the river's cartography, visited historic archives, and then journeyed through 28 counties—two in Ohio, 19 in Indiana, 6 in Illinois and one in Kentucky—all within and near the Wabash River Heritage Corridor. When the tour ends, in Carmel in late August, 2007, the works will be sold at auction with a percent of the proceeds to support the Wabash River Heritage Corridor.

To view some samples of the work and learn more about the artists, check out Jim Faulkner's site at http://www.faulknerartist.com/River_Odyssey/River_Odyssey_Paintings_Index.htm or David Dale's at http://daviddalefineart.com/River_Odyssey/River_Odyssey_Paintings.htm.

Wherever you go this summer, whether to a Water Trail grand opening, a viewing of the Wabash Life video, or to see the River Odyssey exhibition, remember – its about the Wabash. Who could need more?